

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5489

S E C R E T CAIRO 7448

NODIS/CHEROKEE

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR EG US IS

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS

REF: SECTO 046

1. APPRECIATE HAVING CLARIFICATION CONTAINED PARA ONE REFTEL. ASSUME THE REFERENCE TO "SIX ISRAELI POSTS" IS TO THE SIX US MILITARY POSTS THAT THE ISRAELIS WANT. (THE SLIP MAY BE FREUDIAN, BUT IT IS EXACTLY THE WAY THE EGYPTIANS SEE THOSE POSTS.) I HAD INDEED GAINED THE IMPRESSION THEY WERE A SINE QUA NON FOR THE ISRAELIS, ALTHOUGH YOU INDICATED THEIR NUMBER MIGHT BE REDUCED. I WILL SOFTEN THAT ELEMENT OF THE TALKING POINTS AND WILL ALSO, AS WE DISCUSSED, TRY TO GET A READING ON SADAT'S PERTINENT FALLBACK POSITION IF HE HAS ONE.

2. I AM GLAD WE HAVE WARNED THE ISRAELIS ABOUT THE LOOSE TALK THAT IS COMING OUT OF JERUSALEM THESE DAYS, BUT THUS FAR OUR WARNING SHOWS LITTLE SIGN OF DOING MUCH GOOD. FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS THE EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS CARRIED VARIOUS BELLICOSE REPORTS OUT OF JERUSALEM. WHILE RABIN'S RECENT STATEMENT ABOUT TURNING DOWN THE EGYPTIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL BUT WANTING NEGOTIATIONS TO CONTINUE WAS BALANCED, PERES' PARALLEL COMMENT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE GIVEN THEIR "FINAL" OFFER WAS UNHELPFUL. TODAY THERE IS AN ARTICLE OUT

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OF JERUSALEM STATING YOU MAY HAVE TO SHUTTLE SIMPLY TO SAVE

THE TALKS RATHER THAN COMING WITH ANY EXPECTATION OF ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT. THIS KIND OF TALK GIVES THE IMPRESSION LOCALLY THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE SEEKING TO IMPOSE A DIKTAT OR ABORT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND GETS EGYPTIANS BACKS UP. THERE ARE OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT OUR SIDING WITH ISRAELIS, WHICH ARE HARDLY CONDUCIVE TO MAINTAINING OUR OLE AS AN IMPARTIAL BROKER.

3. SOME OF THIS IS A NATURAL REACTION TO THE HARE-BRAINED OAU RESOLUTION ON THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM UN, BUT I WOULDHOPE THE ISRAELIS ARE NOT IGNORING SADAT'S PUBLIC COMMENT AT KHARTOUM STATING THAT HE DOES NOT RPT NOT FAVOR THE EXPULSION OF ISRAEL, SINCE IT WOULD IN EFFECT ABSOLVE HER OF HER UN COMMITMENTS. AS THE PARTY MOST AGGRIEVED BY THE CONTINUED ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORY, IT TOOK A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COURAGE TO STATE THIS, ESPECIALLY ON THE EVE OF THE OAU SUMMIT WITH ITS INEVITABLE HEADY "WAR DANCE" ATMOSPHERICS. I NOTE QADHAAFI IS ALREADY PILLORING SADAT IN THE LIBYAN PRESS FOR THAT STATEMENT (TRIPOLI 844).

4. THUS FAR THE EGYPTIANS HAVE DONE REASONABLY WELL IN NOT BEING PROVOKED BY SUCH ISRAELI PRESS COMMENTS, BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO THEIR RESTRAINT. I WILL STRESS TO THE EGYPTIANS THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP THEIR COOL AND AVOID OVERREACTING TO ISRAELI LOOSE TALK. HOWEVER, IF OUR WARNINGS TO THE ISRAELIS HAVE NO EFFECT, WE MUST EXPECT THE EGYPTIANS TO RESPOND IN KIND.

5. ALTHOUGH FAHMY HAD TOLD ME SADAT WOULD PROBABLY NOT RETURN UNTIL AUGUST 1, MFA OFFICIAL TOLD ME THIS MORNING LATEST WORD IS PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WILL NOT COME BACK TODAY. SADAT, FAHMY AND THE REST ARE GOING DIRECTLY TO ALEXANDRIA. I HAVE A TENTATIVE APPOINTMENT WITH FAHMY IN ALEXANDRIA AT 1100 LOCAL TOMORROW (THURSDAY). THIS SHOULD ENABLE ME TO TALK PRIVATELY WITH HIM AND THEN ASK HIM TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH SADAT LATER SAME DAY OR FRIDAY. SINCE I HAVE NO SECURE COMMUNICATIONS OUT OF ALEXANDRIA, I WILL BE OUT OF TOUCH FROM 0800 THURSDAY UNTIL MY RETURN TO CAIRO.

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6. I HAVE RESERVATIONS ON YUGOSLAV AIRLINES JU 441 FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, ETA BELGRADE 1100. GETTING BACK FOLLOWING DAY IS MORE DIFFICULT AND MUST STILL BE WORKED OUT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE PLANS, PEACE TALKS, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 07/3/75
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO07448
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850012-1754, N750003-0054
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975075/aaaaaeiq.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 SECTO 46
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, EG, US, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006